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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.20 and A/72/L.20/Add.1)*]

72/17. Effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, in particular the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in which it is stated that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,[1] which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012, 68/125 of 18 December 2013, 69/139 of 15 December 2014, 70/20 of 3 December 2015 and 71/252 of 23 December 2016, adopted under the agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

[1] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

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Recalling also its resolutions 70/109 of 10 December 2015 on a world against violence and violent extremism and 70/291 of 1 July 2016 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review,

Recalling further its resolution 55/254 of 31 May 2001 on the protection of religious sites,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their territories,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts or threats of violence, destruction, damage or endangerment, directed against religious sites as such, that continue to occur in the world;

2. *Expresses its deep condolences* to the families of victims of heinous terrorist attacks directed against religious sites, including the recent terrorist attack that took place in northern Sinai, Egypt, on 24 November 2017, targeting worshippers during prayers, in which at least 305 people, including 27 children, were killed;

3. *Reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation* of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renews its commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and to deny impunity and pursue accountability in relation to the perpetrators of terrorist acts;

4. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

5. *Reaffirms* the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

6. *Urges* all States, therefore, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to devote, in consultation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, attention to the question of the effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace in his forthcoming reports relevant to the question;

8. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of the effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace under the item entitled "Culture of peace".

61st plenary meeting
1 December 2017